

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claim 18. Please amend Claims 1, 8, 16, 19 and 20. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for transporting a substrate through a printing system, comprising:
- a transport belt provided with a plurality of holes which extend through a thickness of the belt;
 - a vacuum table which generates a vacuum, the vacuum table being positioned on one side of the transport belt; and
 - a porous sheet positioned between the belt and the vacuum table, the vacuum table, the porous sheet, and the transport belt being in fluid communication, the vacuum generated by the vacuum table creating a suction on a substrate placed on the transport belt, the porous sheet restricting fluid flow between the table and the transport belt ~~to maintain a desired vacuum as an area of the transport belt covered by the substrate varies as the substrate is transported through the printing system.~~
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the desired vacuum is maintained in the range from about -0.05 psi to about -0.3 psi.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the vacuum table is coupled to a motor which generates a vacuum.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the motor is coupled to a CPU which instructs the motor as to the amount of vacuum to generate.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the vacuum table is coupled to a vacuum sensor which detects the vacuum provided by the vacuum table.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the vacuum sensor and the motor are coupled to a CPU which receives vacuum information from the sensor and sends instructions to the motor.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transport belt is made from woven polyester.
8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[7]] 1, wherein the [[woven polyester]] transport belt is made from a reinforced polyurethane material.
9. (Orininal) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the transport belt has a thickness of about 0.09 inch.
10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holes of the transport belt are spaced apart by about 1 inch.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holes of the transport belt have a diameter of about 0.1 inch.
12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transport belt is made from stainless steel.
13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the thickness of the transport belt is about 0.008 inch.
14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the porous sheet is made of sintered, porous polyethylene.
15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the porous sheet has a thickness of about 0.5 inch.

16. (Currently amended) A method for transporting a substrate in a printing system, comprising:

transporting the substrate through the printing system on a transport belt provided with a plurality of holes which extend through a thickness of the belt;

generating a vacuum with a vacuum table for holding the substrate on a transport belt, the vacuum table including a vacuum source and a thin sheet of a porous material positioned between the vacuum source and the transport belt; and

maintaining the vacuum at a desired level as the area of the transport belt covered by the substrate varies as the substrate is transported through the printing system.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the desired level of vacuum is maintained from about -0.05 psi to about -0.3 psi.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[18]] 16, wherein the porous sheet acts as a flow restrictor.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[18]] 16, wherein the porous sheet distributes the vacuum over a region of the transport belt.
-